



# FactSheet

Evaluate  
Your  
Entire  
Surroundings



*Prevent Struck-by Incidents!*

## Struck By Vehicles

### Fatalities in the workplace involving vehicles are on the rise in OSHA's Kansas City Region 7.<sup>1</sup>

Twenty percent (35 of 175) of all workplace fatalities investigated by the OSHA Kansas City Region during fiscal years 2012 through 2015 involved vehicle-related "struck by" incidents.

- Of these 35 vehicle-related fatal incidents, 34% of the victims were vehicle operators. In the remaining 66%, another worker (bystander) was struck and killed.
- Nearly two-thirds of the incidents involved either industrial trucks (forklifts, skid steers, carts) (9%) or over-the-road vehicles (trucks, automobiles, semis) (57%)
- The incidents occurred across industries:
  - 71% were at general industry worksites
  - 23% in construction
  - 3% in agriculture

Twenty-three percent of the struck-by-vehicle incidents were at employers with 10 or fewer employees. Thirty-seven percent were at mid-size companies with 11-100 employees and the remaining forty percent were at large employers with over 100 employees.

Causes of the incidents include: vehicles backing into or striking individuals not in the operators' field of vision, vehicles falling off ramps, inclines or unstable ground and vehicles striking objects which then strike the victim.

#### Prevention strategies include:

- Stay alert and make safety your first priority. Inattention is a leading cause of incidents. Maintain situational awareness.
- Expect the unexpected - pay close attention to employees and activities around you.
- Obey all traffic rules and signs.
- Minimize distractions- refrain from listening to music (using headphones) or using your phone when operating or working near motorized vehicles.
- Inspect and maintain your vehicle.
- Turn on your headlights so others can see you.
- Use safety belts.
- Get plenty of rest so that you don't operate your vehicle when you are fatigued.
- Don't operate your vehicle if you have been drinking or using drugs. Even over-the-counter medications may cause drowsiness.
- Wear your high visibility clothing or reflective vest at all times when working near motorized vehicles.

<sup>1</sup> Iowa, a state plan, is not included in this analysis. For more information on State of Iowa OSHA, visit our website at <http://www.osha.gov/> or call (515) 242-4870.



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## Struck By Vehicles Selected Fatalities (2012 - 2015)

1. A warehouse employee was operating a forklift where empty pallets were stored in the aisle **restricting space** to 7' 5" wide. The operator leaned out from the rollover cage while leaving the aisle, striking the support beam of the rack causing blunt force trauma to the head and fatal injuries.
2. A worker pushing a magnet walked into the loader **operator's blind spot** and was fatally struck.
3. While removing the starter on an automobile **without the use of a jack stand**, an employee was crushed under the vehicle when the screw/scissor jack used to lift one side slipped out from under the vehicle.
4. An employee was posted as flagger during a resurfacing project. A pickup truck **traveling toward the flagging zone failed to slow down**, veered off the road and struck the flagger who landed 141 feet from point of impact.
5. An **unbelted employee** operating an excavator was ejected when the vehicle tipped. The employee received fatal crushing injuries.
6. A loader operator traveling westbound was hauling two hay bales measuring 8' by 8', **restricting the operator's vision** when another employee walking from a barn was fatally struck.

### For additional information contact:

**Des Moines Area Office**  
(515) 284-4794

**Kansas City Area Office**  
(816) 483-9531

**Omaha Area Office**  
(402) 553-0171

**St. Louis Area Office**  
(314) 425-4249

**Wichita Area Office**  
(316) 269-6644

This is an informational fact sheet highlighting Kansas City Region outreach. It does not impose any new compliance requirements. For a comprehensive list of compliance requirements of OSHA standards or regulations, refer to Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

[www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)



Visit the Construction Struck-by e-Tool at  
[www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/construction/struckby/mainpage.html](http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/construction/struckby/mainpage.html)